

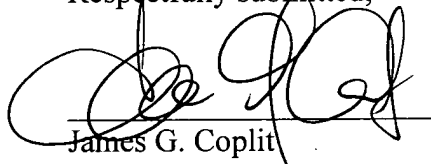
REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 10, 2002 has been carefully considered. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's additional allowance of claim 45. In said Office Action, the Examiner noted that there was some confusion as to which claims were to be examined, inasmuch as applicant appeared to amend claims 32-35 in its September 20, 2002 response, which claims had already been cancelled in its October 18, 2001 response. Such amendments were made in light of the Office Action mailed August 27, 2002 which included an action on claims 32-40, which applicant now understands was made in error.

Applicant requests that examination be made of claims 31 and 41-45. Applicant has cancelled claims 32-35 in the event that these claims have been made part of the application.

Applicants submit that claims 31 and 41-45 patentably distinguish over all of the references relied upon by the Examiner, define the invention with the specificity required by statute, and are in condition for immediate allowance. Reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are therefore requested. In the event that the Examiner should determine that the aforesaid Amendment does not place the case in condition for immediate allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to discuss what additional steps would be necessary to immediately place the case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



James G. Coplit
Reg. No. 40,571
Attorney for Applicants
(203) 849-8300